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Please amend claims 1, 7 and 9 as follows:

A1  
1. (Amended) A method of controlling reproduction of software by an end-user of the software, the method comprising:

providing to an entity that licenses its software to users, license generation software, which when operated generates validation numbers, there being a unique validation number for each copy of the software to be separately licensed;

a copy of the validation number being provided each of a license registration database and included with the software when supplied from the entity;

when the user installs a software on a designated system, determining a registration key formed from the unique validation number and additional information including a number related to the designated system, wherein software determines the number related to the designated system;

generating a license key number using the license registration database in response to the additional information provided, wherein the license key is generated in response to an on-line transaction; and

using the license key number on the users system to unlock use of the software.

A2  
7. A method as in claim 1 wherein the additional information includes a password created by the user.

A3  
9. (Amended) A method as in claim 8 wherein the validation number further includes a unique number not controlled by a vendor.

A4  
10. (New) A method of controlling reproduction of software by an end-user of the software, the method comprising:

providing to an entity that licenses its software to users, license generation software, which when operated generates validation numbers, there being a unique validation number for each copy of the software to be separately licensed;

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A4

a copy of the validation number being provided each of a license registration database and included with the software when supplied from the entity;  
when the user installs a software on a designated system,  
determining a registration key formed from the unique validation number and a user password created by the user;  
verifying the registration key after transmitting the registration key to the license registration database;  
generating a license key number using the license registration database; and  
using the license key number on the users system to unlock use of the software.

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